

Introduction



Under the leadership of Saxony-Anhalt, the European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN) was set up as a joint initiative of regions with a high concentration of chemical sector businesses. The network provides added-value in the form of exchanges between regions facing similar challenges in applying the high number of EU regulations and competing at the same time with non-EU regions that fall outside the scope of these regulations.

The ECRN currently consists of 20 chemical regions in Europe representing about one million employees within the chemical industry. Furthermore, the ECRN is involved in the High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the Chemical Industry in Europe. It is the first time that regions with a strong chemical sector are integrated in the policy dialogue at the European Level.

From my point of view, in a short time, the ECRN has developed to become a significant European stakeholder of the chemical regions, which defends the regional interests in the field of chemicals.

I strongly encourage you to take an active part in this dialogue, through our network, and by becoming a member in the ECRN. Sincerely,

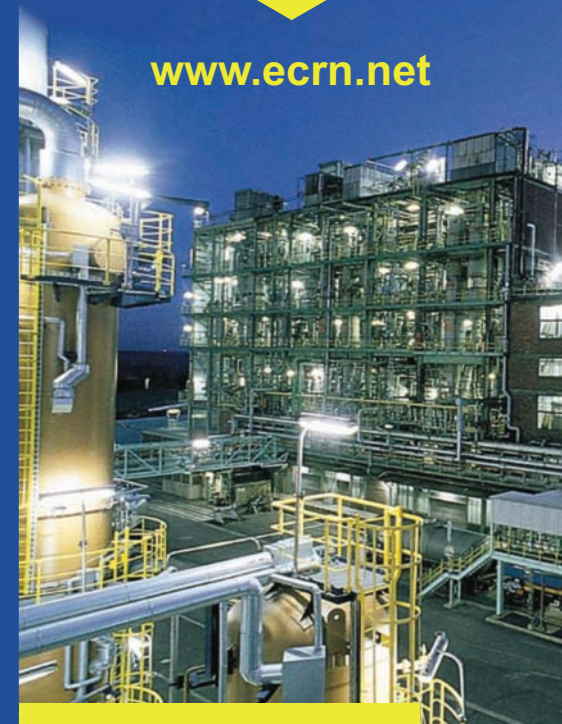
Dr. Reiner Haseloff, Minister of Economy and Labour of Saxony-Anhalt and President of the ECRN e.V.

The ECRN Association Partners

Asturias, Spain
Bavaria, Germany
Catalonia, Spain
Cheshire, United Kingdom
Flanders, Belgium
Hesse, Germany
Ida-Viru, Estonia
Limburg, Netherlands
Lombardy, Italy
Lower Saxony, Germany
North Rhine Westphalia, Germany
Novara, Italy
Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany
Rhône-Alpes, France
Saxony-Anhalt, Germany
Schleswig-Holstein, Germany
Scotland, United Kingdom
Tees Valley, United Kingdom
Ústí Region, Czech Republic
Wallonia, Belgium



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What is the ECRN ?

European Chemical Regions Network

Who are our members?

Public authorities: Regions who deal with aspects of the chemical sector

How is the ECRN organised?

By the Network Secretariat and its members

Who are its experts?

Officers of the Ministries of the member regions

The chemical industry in Europe is located in a limited number of regions. In these regions, the chemical industry plays a dominant role in the local economy. The chemical regions are faced with similar challenges:

- to find efficient ways to implement EU legislation.
- to support competitiveness of the chemical industry, hereby safeguarding the sustainable development of the chemical sites.
- to use the framework conditions in a most efficient way.
- to cope with change of business structures, culture and globalisation.

European
Chemical
Regions
Network



Objectives of the ECRN

- improving regional development strategies in chemical regions.
- maintaining competitiveness by fostering European cooperation of regional actors.
- developing a European partnership of regional partnerships in chemical regions.
- articulating common interests of chemical regions towards the European institutions.
- ensuring recognition of the European Chemical Regions Network as the regional stakeholder in the future debate on chemical policy.



Joint Interests of Chemical Regions

Chemical regions in Europe are affected by EU regulations in a similar way. The regional dimension of EU legislation is often only barely taken into account. Chemical regions must respond to the changing framework conditions by finding joint solutions on:

- skills, training and education
- research and development
- infrastructure development etc.



ECRN Projects

Current cooperative projects developed by the ECRN and by our partners are in the field of logistics (ChemLog), cluster building, skills development, technology platforms (SusChem), and REACH.

The ECRN played an active role at the High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the European Chemical Industry to the European Commission and now actively disseminates the results in its member regions.

The ECRN also works together with stakeholders including CEFIC, EMCEF, ECEG, EPCA, EEN, EEB, national chemical associations, partners from the Social Dialogue etc.



Further information is available from the Director of the ECRN Network Secretariat, Mr. Michael Hack. (e-mail: office@ecrn.net)